

☛ **The purpose of the following Bible Study is to help you prepare for your upcoming experience at The Pittsburgh Project.**

There are 10 individual studies that should take 10 minutes or less. They should be completed over two weeks and allow for 4 days off. You will need a Bible, pen/pencil, paper and an open heart to enter into this work. If you would like to look up the Bible passages online, see www.biblegateway.com

I can't wait to see you this summer.

Wayne Younger

Service Camp Speaker

Two weeks of preparation

1. Abe leaves home.

Read Genesis 12:1-9.

Abram was called to leave his homeland, his extended family and culture to go to a place that God would show him. Even though he did not have to go alone, that kind of leaving stretches a person. Abram had some promises from God that he was holding on to. These promises can be found in the Bible passage you just read; what are they?

Like Abram, you will be leaving home this summer. What do you look forward to in coming to the Pittsburgh Project? What concerns do you have?

Take some time now to pray for your time at the Pittsburgh Project this summer, pray for the things that excite you and for your concerns.

In Hebrews 11 we read that Abraham, (Abram's new God given name,) followed God in faith. Pray that God would increase your faith and help you follow Him wherever He leads.

2. Aliens* among us!

Read Deuteronomy 24:17-18. God asks the Israelites not to withhold justice from the weak in society. Who are the weak in our society?

What issues of justice or injustice do you think they deal with?

In the passage you read, why do you think that God reminds the Israelites of their time in Egypt? Pray for the weak among us and ask God how you can help. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

** in addition to being from outer space, an alien can also be someone who is living away from their home country/city/region, etc.*

3. Oh no, more Aliens!!!

Read Deuteronomy 24:19-22. God commands the Israelites to leave some of the fruit of their labors for the weak. Imagine planting, watering, fertilizing and weeding a garden and being told that you had to share the fruit with someone that did not help and possibly that you did not even know. How would this make you feel?

Why does God again remind them of Egypt?

4. How to please God.

Read Micah 6:8. We often struggle with knowing God's will, yet in this passage we see plainly what pleases God. What do you think it means to "walk humbly"?

Ask God to help you fully understand what it means to walk humbly with Him.

5. Good sacrifices.

Read Psalm 51:16-17. When you come to the Pittsburgh Project you will be called upon to sacrifice your time, talents and at times your desires. We are thankful for all that you will accomplish in the lives of those you will serve here. God though, is not just concerned with your sacrifice. He cares for your heart and understands your true motives. Pray that God would cleanse your heart and purify your motives for serving Him.

Make a short list of thing you would like to learn this summer while you are here.

6. Two coins.

Read Mark 12:41-44. Jesus observes the offerings of both the rich and poor, and while observing the offering of the widow, he says that hers is great because it came out of her poverty. The lesson here is not that monetary offerings from poor people are more valuable. Instead we learn that the heart of the giver is important to God. The widow brings her small gift in thankfulness and not to manipulate God. Pray that God would bless the gift of your time that you will make this summer.

7. Please don't give us what we deserve!

Read Luke 23:39-43. The two thieves who were crucified with Jesus had different reactions to him, but truthfully they were both being punished for crimes that they committed. It is true that justice can be brutal. One of the thieves will inherit eternal life because of the belief in Jesus he demonstrated--even while he was receiving capital punishment. It is hard for us to believe that salvation is for everyone, but here we see even the lowest of the low benefiting from a relationship with God. The truth is, none of us deserve forgiveness. Pray and thank God for the forgiveness of your sins.

8. Everybody!

Read Revelation 7:9-17. Most of the time we experience the gospel in the context of people who are like us, they have the same background as us, live in similar neighborhoods, speak the same language and share the same skin color. We learn in Revelation 7 that God is building a church for Himself who is not like that at all. Everybody is there, all types of folks.

How would your church be different if it looked like the assembly described in this passage?

At the Pittsburgh Project you will meet believers who are different than you. Pray that God will prepare you to learn from their experiences of Him and to grow in your faith.

9. Love, love, love.

Read 1 John 4:7-8. Love is a key ingredient in the life of a Christian.

What are ways that you have experienced God's love for you?

Pray that God would increase your love for everyone who is coming to the Pittsburgh Project with your group. Pray specifically for those that you have had past conflicts with and those that you have held secret resentments against.

Pray for release to love them.

10. He did what?

Mark 6:30-44. Jesus fed five thousand people using one little boys lunch. Cool! Amazing! Crazy! Real! Why real? We sometimes read these stories like they are fairy tales, but this is history. It really happened and more are to come. Pray that we would see miracles this summer.



IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN THE PITTSBURGH PROJECT'S SERVICE CAMP, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS EXERCISE WITH YOUR GROUP.

HOMEOWNER EXPECTATIONS...

HERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE DESCRIPTIONS OF HOMEOWNERS THAT YOU MAY SERVE. IN ORDER TO BETTER EQUIP YOURSELF TO SERVE FOR THE WEEK, DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH HOMEOWNER:

1. WHAT FIRST COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THIS PERSON'S DESCRIPTION?

2. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE SIMILAR?

3. WHAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD YOU HAVE IN CARING FOR THEM WHILE IN THEIR HOME?

4. WHAT BLESSINGS OR CHALLENGES MIGHT RESULT IN BEING IN THEIR HOME?

1. the homeowner is a lonely, 75-year-old widow with heart condition and no family in town. she is dressed nicely and her house is well-kept and clean; she doesn't seem "destitute"
2. the homeowner is wheelchair bound, and weighs 250 pounds. he seems a little uncomfortable letting you into his home embarrassed of the condition of the house
3. the homeowner is 90 years old, frail, hard of hearing and rarely leaves his home. she is chronically sick in bed; you don't see her much while you are working.
4. the homeowner is 60 years old and is on disability,* but he doesn't look injured or sick. his house serves as home for his adult children, grand children and great grandchildren.
5. the 83-year-old homeowner has cancer; they have a strong faith in God and suggest that you start the day in prayer with her. she offers to give you some of their possessions because she is so grateful
6. the 72 year old widower wants to assist you in the painting you are doing at his house. he immigrated from Eastern Europe and doesn't speak much English
7. the homeowner has mental issues and used to be homeless. he keeps things you might throw away, like stacks of 10-year-old magazines and boxes of junk mail
8. the homeowner has a part-time job and is only at the house in the morning. her adult daughter is there the rest of the day and watches TV in the room where you are working/
9. the homeowner loves their 3 cats, but they don't always use the litter box. he is a great chess player and invites you to play
10. the homeowner is glad to have you in their home, talks to your group a lot and punctuates her sentences with swear words. he smokes cigarettes, doesn't shower as often as you do and has an odor

*someone who has had to stop working due to physical injury, illness or mental limitations may receive disability insurance through social security